ECLIPSE COMICS™

mini-series
№ 3 of 3

$1.75
CANADA
$2.50

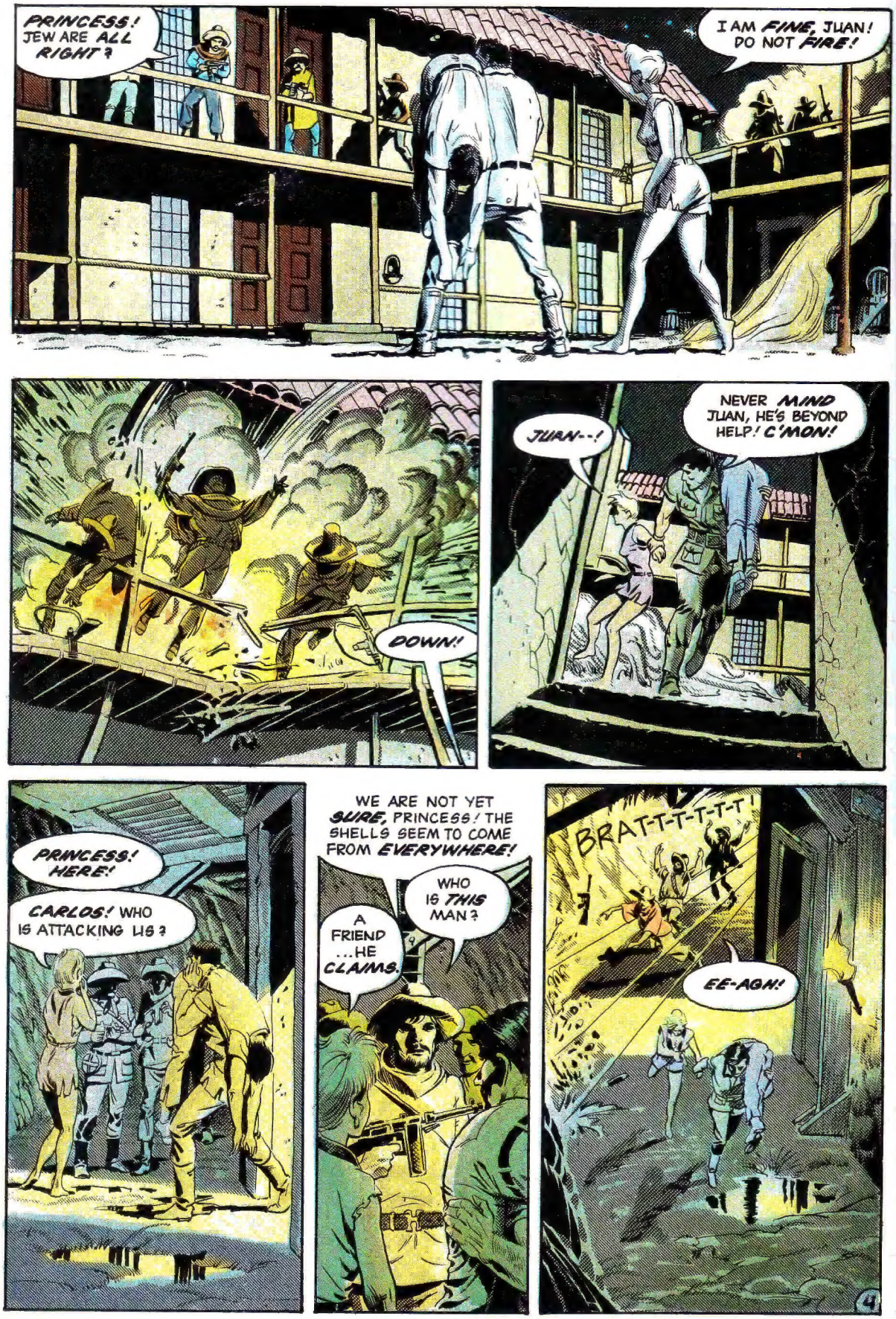
LUGER™

LUGER
THAT'S RIGHT, A LEETLE CLOSER! ...PEDRO WEEL NOT HURT JEW! WHAT DID JEW SAY JOR NAME WAS?
...I... KINGSLEY ...I'M TERI KINGSLEY...
NO... WAIT ...THAT'S NOT RIGHT... I... I'M... WAIT A SECOND, I'M...
CLOSER! LEETLE CLOSER!
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ...CAN THAT BE RIGHT... NO I'M...UH...
JEW VERY PRETTY WHOEVER JEW ARE! SI! MUY BONITA! A SHAME TO KILL JEW!
EH?
BRAT-T-T-T!
YA-GGGH!
UHH!

Story/Bruce Jones · Pencils/Bo Hampton · Inks/Tom Yeates · Letters/Tracy Hampton · Colorist/Steve Oliff · Editor/Cat Yronwode

YOU ARE A DEAD MAN, MR. LUGER!
--AND AS SOON AS I ALERT MY BODY GUARDS, YOU WILL BE SKINNED ALIVE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO MY HUSBAND!
HOLD ON A SECOND!
YOUR "HUSBAND" --IF THAT'S WHO HE REALLY IS-- IS ONLY UNCONSCIOUS!
AND UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS NOBODY GOES ANYWHERE!
OKAY, LET'S START AT THE TOP! YOU ARE NOT TERI KINGSLEY-- RIGHT SO FAR?
YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!
BUT YOU ARE THE GIRL IN THIS PHOTO! OR SO YOU SAY...
I TOLD YOU: I AM THE PRINCESS DEJON RHUAL OF BOLIVIA!
THAT IS MY HUSBAND, MIGUEL! WE CAME HERE TO BE ON OUR HONEYMOON, SEEKING PRIVACY!
2
WE--
SH! LISTEN!
MMMMEEEEEEEEEEE
...W-WHAT IS IT?
I MAY BE CRAZY BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE--
MMMMEEEEEEE

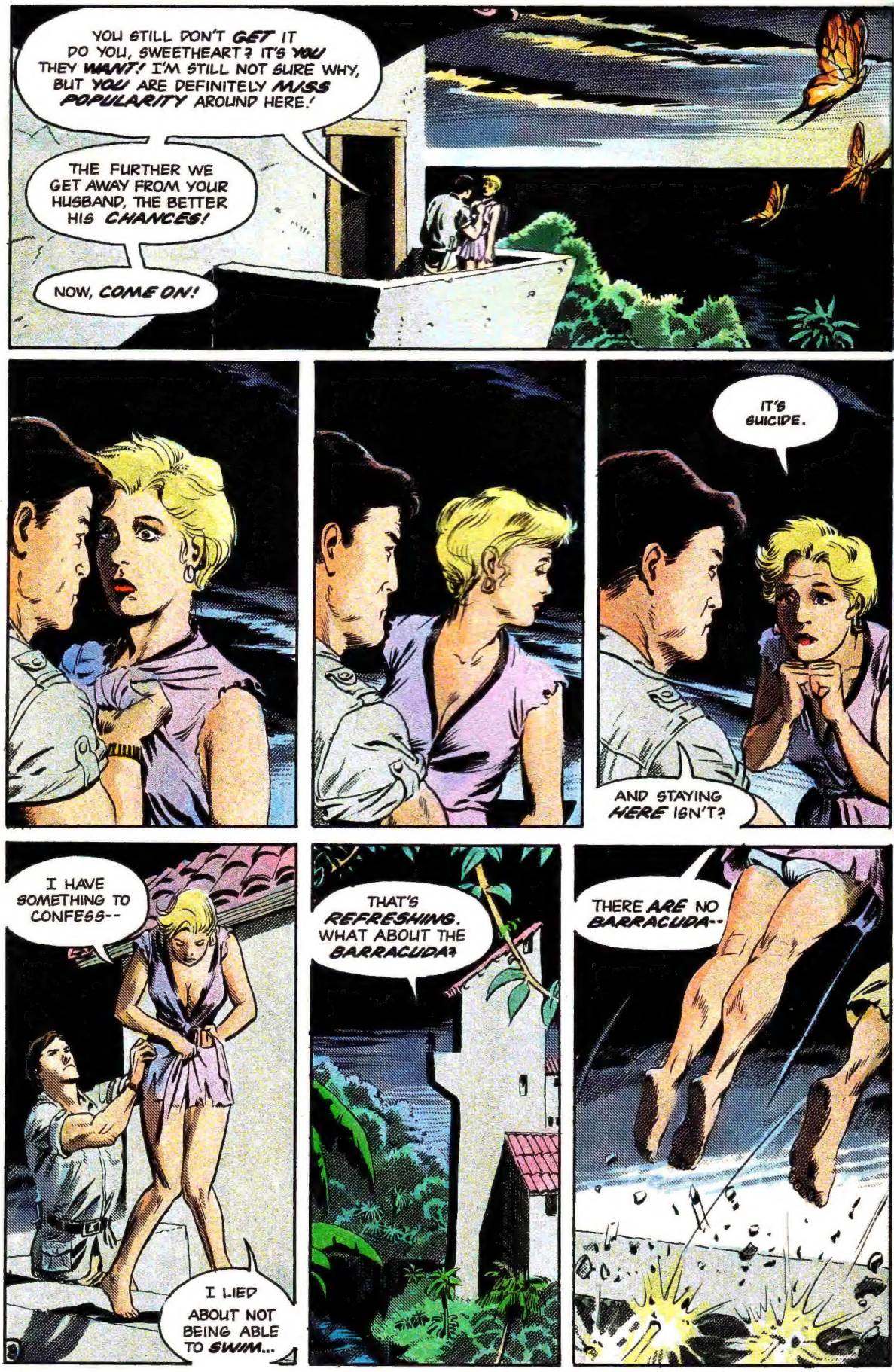
--IN-COMING! DUCK!
KOFF KOFF --MIGUEL!
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT PRIVACY...
HE'S ALL RIGHT --NOTHING BROKEN. LET'S GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
R-RIPP
ANY IDEA WHO MIGHT BE LOBBING MORTAR FIRE AT YOU?
KOFF --THERE HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING ATTEMPTS BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS!
3

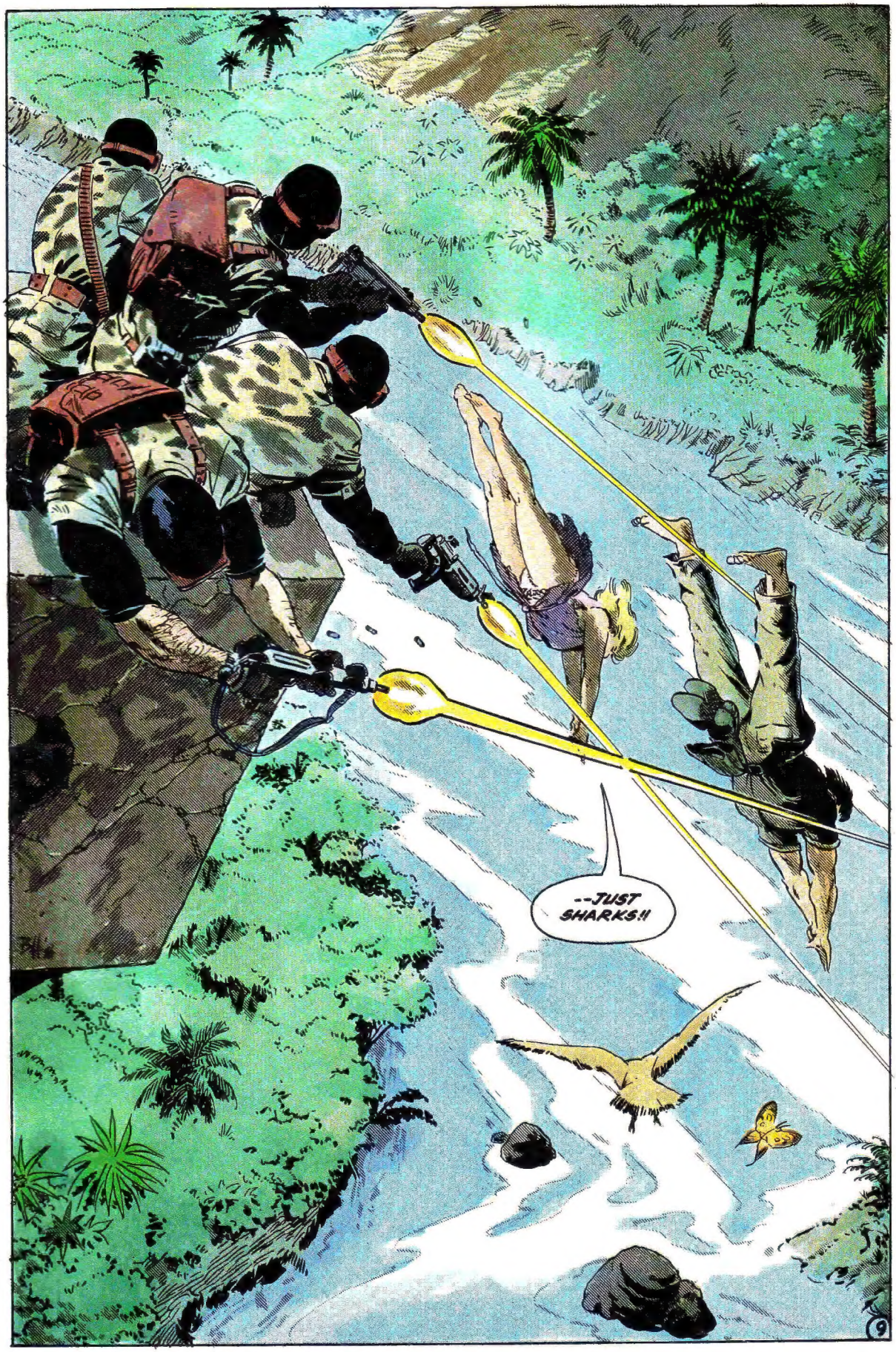

PRINCESS! JEW ARE ALL RIGHT?
I AM FINE, JUAN! DO NOT FIRE!
DOWN!
JUAN--!
NEVER MIND JUAN, HE'S BEYOND HELP! C'MON!
PRINCESS! HERE!
CARLOS! WHO IS ATTACKING US?
WE ARE NOT YET SURE, PRINCESS! THE SHELLS SEEM TO COME FROM EVERYWHERE!
WHO IS THIS MAN?
A FRIEND ...HE CLAIMS.
BRAT-T-T-T-T-T!
EE-AGH!
4

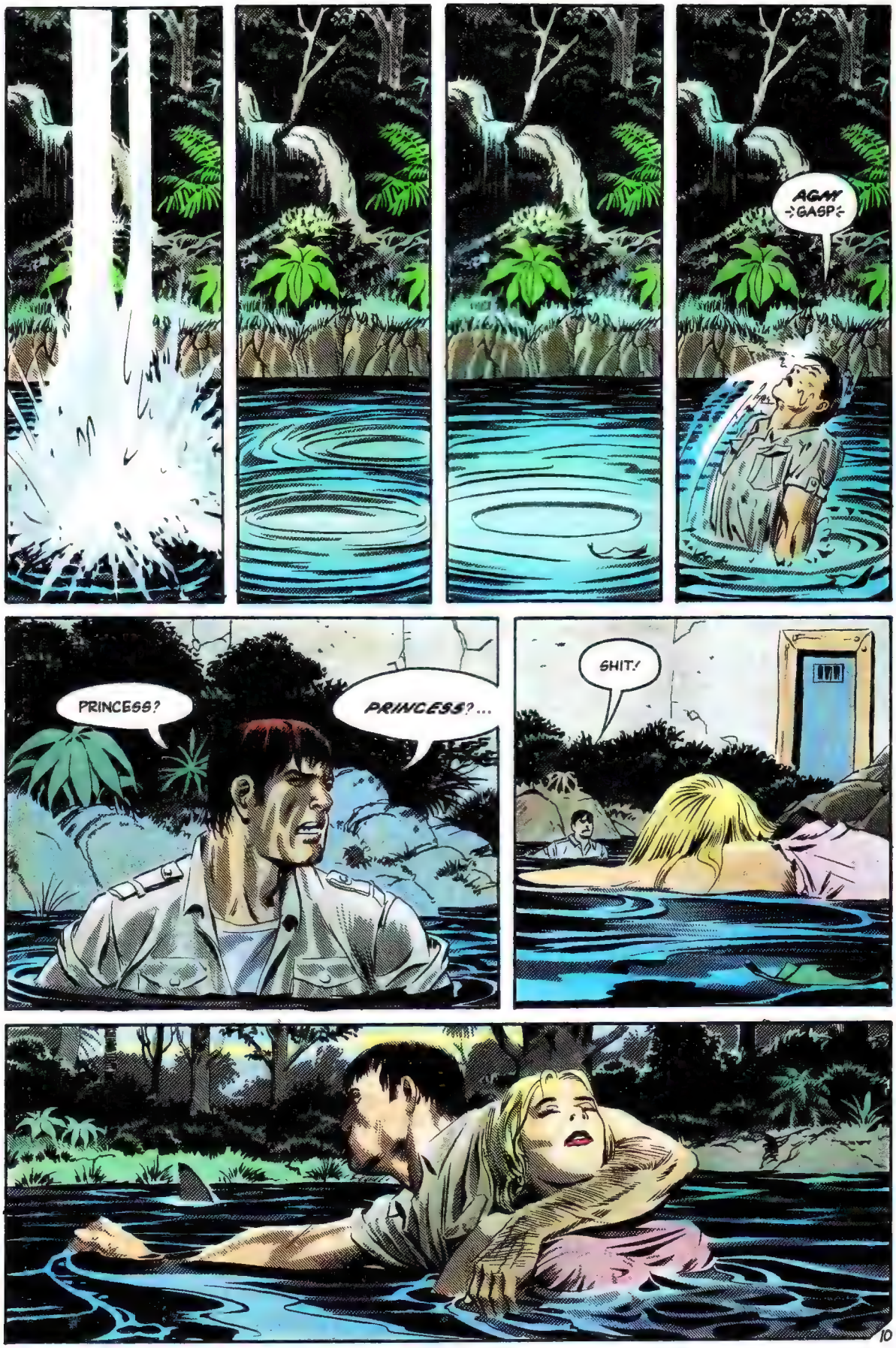
THEY'RE SLAUGHTERING MY FAMILY!
THAT WAS MACHINE GUN FIRE--THEY'RE INSIDE THE COMPOUND NOW--THAT MEANS NO MORE SHELLING...
LUGER!
BLAM!!
H-HOW DID YOU DO THAT?...
IT'S A LONG STORY... C'MON!
5

MIGUEL!
WE CAN'T TAKE HIM WHERE WE'RE GOING! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING IT ISN'T YOUR HUSBAND THEY WANT...
SPAROWWW!!
BLAM! BLAM BLAM!
HOW MANY BULLETS DOES THAT THING HOLD?
I NEVER ASKED!
BY THE WAY --WHERE ÷UGH÷ DOES THIS STAIRCASE LEAD, ANYWAY?
NOWHERE.
6

WELL, AT LEAST THEY CAN'T GET IN FRONT OF US...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?...
I SWIM BETTER WITHOUT MY BOOTS.
YOU'RE INSANE!
DIDN'T YOU EVER SEE "BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID?"
EVEN IF I COULD SWIM--WHICH I CANNOT--EVEN IF THE WATER WERE NOT FILLED WITH SHARKS AND BARRACUDA--WHICH IT IS...I WILL NOT LEAVE MY HUSBAND BEHIND!
SPARROWK!!!
BLAM! BLAM!!
AGGH!


YOU STILL DON'T GET IT DO YOU, SWEETHEART? IT'S YOU THEY WANT! I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY, BUT YOU ARE DEFINITELY MISS POPULARITY AROUND HERE!
THE FURTHER WE GET AWAY FROM YOUR HUSBAND, THE BETTER HIS CHANCES!
NOW, COME ON!
IT'S SUICIDE.
AND STAYING HERE ISN'T?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO CONFESS--
I LIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO SWIM...
THAT'S REFRESHING. WHAT ABOUT THE BARRACUDA?
THERE ARE NO BARRACUDA--


--JUST SHARKS!!


AGAH
-:GASP:-
PRINCESS?
PRINCESS?...
SHIT!

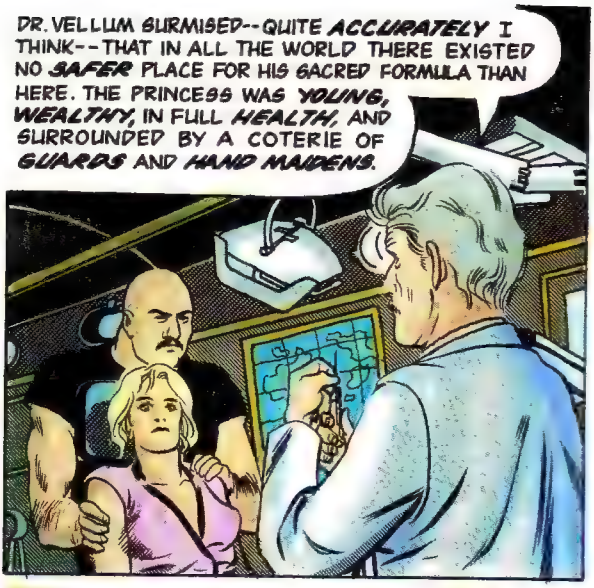
BLAM
CLICK
"CLICK"?

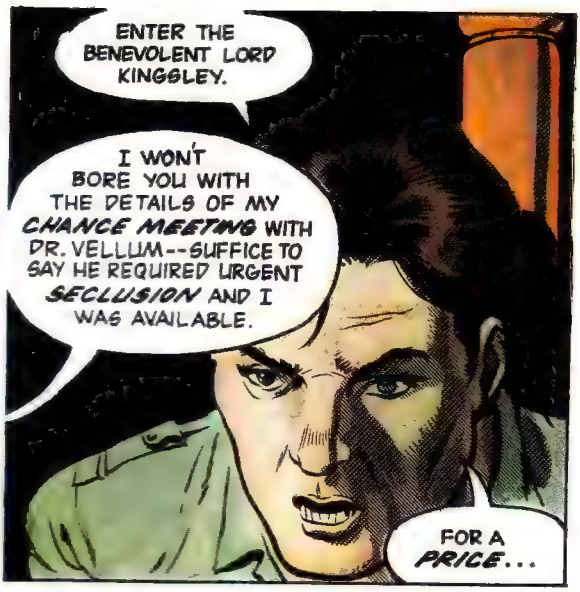
⊰KOFF!⊱
⊰KOFF!⊱
WELCOME BACK...YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.
THE ⊰KOFF⊱ SHARKS?
YEAH, BULLS AND LEMONS ...NASTY. FIRST TIME I EVER ENCOUNTERED RIVER SHARKS OUTSIDE AFRICA. THERE MUST BE AN OUTLET TO THE SEA SOMEWHERE DOWNSTREAM.
I WANT TO ⊰KOFF⊱ THANK YOU...
YES, MR. LUGER... WE ALL WANT TO THANK YOU!

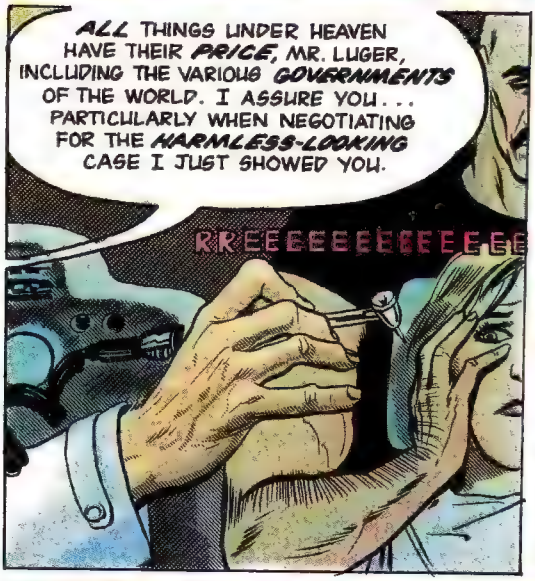
WELL, WELL! THE UBIQUITOUS LORD KINGSLEY! BIT HOT FOR SKIING, ISN'T IT SIR WILFORD?
HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEADS, PLEASE...
DON'T WORRY, YOUR LITTLE "HAND GUN" PROSTHETIC IS OUT OF AMMO.
BESIDES, IS THIS ANY WAY FOR A GRIEVING FATHER TO GREET HIS LONG LOST DAUGHTER?
DAUGHTER? I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE!
AH, BUT HIS LORDSHIP HAS SEEN YOU! HAVEN'T YOU, SIR WILFORD? HE EVEN HAS A PHOTO OF YOU! WHY DON'T YOU TELL US HOW YOU GOT IT, WILLIE OLD BOY?
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MR. LUGER.
RENSEN, BIND THEM!
YES, THAT'S BETTER; NOW WE CAN TALK WITHOUT FEAR OF MR. LUGER LAYING WASTE TO THE REMAINDER OF MY MEN AND HALF THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN!
WELL! YOU'VE BEEN A BUSY BOY MR. LUGER! MUMFORD AND PETERSON CLAIMED YOU WERE NO MORE THAN A DRUNKEN SOT-- BUT I NEVER WAVERED IN MY BELIEF IN YOUR ABILITIES.
YOU WERE ALWAYS A PERFECT CHOICE--A CRACK BOUNTY HUNTER WITH ABSOLUTELY NO BACKGROUND OR ATTACHMENTS FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO TRACE.
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
YOUR MULTI-FACETED SISTER? THAT PROBLEM, MR. LUGER, HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTENDED TO!

...UNNGH...
FREEZE!
DOG! VERMIN! GO AHEAD AND SHOOT! JEW HAVE TAKEN MY WIFE, DESTROYED MY HOME, KILLED MY COMPADRES! I HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR!
PULL DE TRIGGER! ¿SOB!?
DID YOU SAY: "WIFE"? THIS GIRL IS YOUR WIFE?
SI. THE PRINCESS DEJON RHUAL...
PAL, YOU AND I HAVE A LOT OF TALKING TO DO!

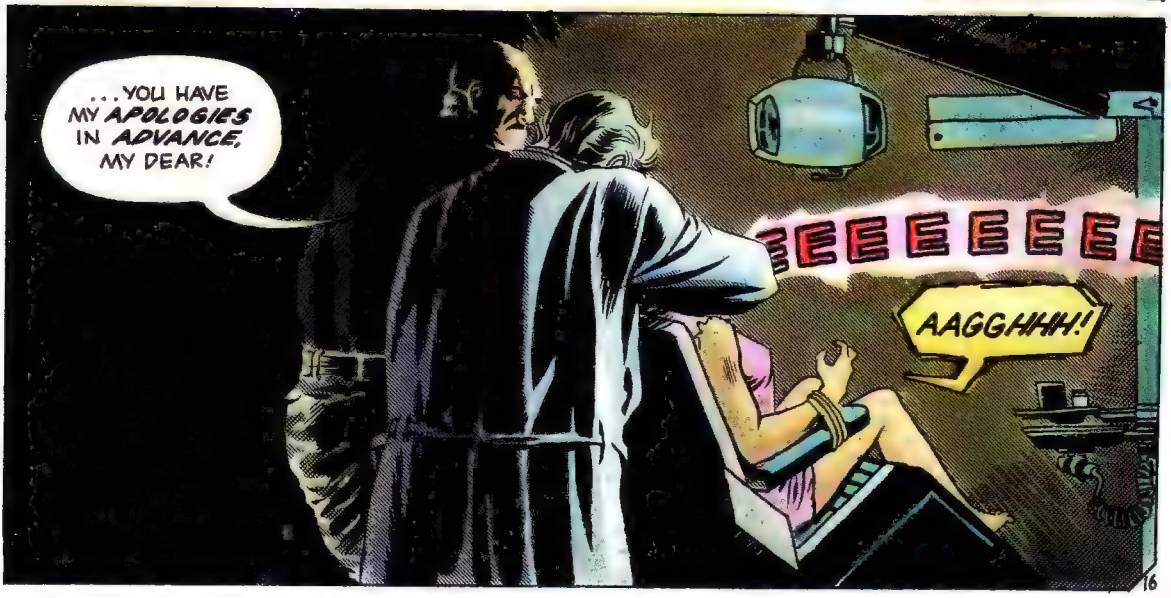
YOU ARE LOOKING, MR. LUGER, AT A ZENITE BOMB... THE WORLD'S FIRST. A DEVICE TOTALLY BEREFT OF RADIOACTIVITY, YET INVESTED WITH TEN TIMES THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF THE LARGEST KNOWN NUCLEAR WARHEAD.
..."ZENITE"...NEVER HEARD OF IT.
FEW MEN HAVE. ITS INVENTOR DIED IN THE SAME BUNKER SHARED BY ADOLF HITLER. ONLY TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES LIVED TO PASS THE SECRET DOWN; ONE OF THEM IS DEAD... THE OTHER IS DR. VELLUM.
THE GERMAN WHO MADE MY NEW HAND..
PRECISELY. DR. VELLUM DIDN'T DISCOVER ZENITE--THAT HONOR BELONGS TO ANOTHER GENIUS--BUT HE DID PIONEER THE TECHNIQUES OF SPLITTING THE ATOM WITH IT.
IF THE ALLIES HAD TARRIED A FEW DAYS LONGER, THE WAR MIGHT HAVE ENDED QUITE DIFFERENTLY, MR. LUGER.
ZENITE IS NOT AN EXPENSIVE ELEMENT TO SYNTHESIZE, BUT IT DOES REQUIRE AN EXACTING FORMULA.
WITH HIS COLLEAGUES DEAD, DR. VELLUM ALONE POSSESSED THE SECRET AND HE TRUSTED NO ONE WITH IT--NOT EVEN HIMSELF.
WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE HE COMMITTED IT TO MICRO DOT AND THEN SET ABOUT OBTAINING A SUITABLE PLACE TO HIDE IT FROM PRYING EYES AND PRYING GOVERNMENTS. DR. VELLUM'S GENIUS AT NUCLEAR PHYSICS, IT TURNED OUT, WAS EXCEEDED ONLY BY HIS TALENT AS A CAT BURGLAR.
FOR A BRIEF TIME--BEFORE THINGS GOT HOT FOR HIM AGAIN--THE GOOD DOCTOR LABORED IN A LEGITIMATE DENTAL PRACTICE IN ARGENTINA. IT WAS THERE THAT HIS PATH CROSSED THAT OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND POWERFUL PRINCESS DEJON RHUAL OF BOLIVIA...


DR. VELLUM SURMISED--QUITE ACCURATELY I THINK--THAT IN ALL THE WORLD THERE EXISTED NO SAFER PLACE FOR HIS SACRED FORMULA THAN HERE. THE PRINCESS WAS YOUNG, WEALTHY, IN FULL HEALTH, AND SURROUNDED BY A COTERIE OF GUARDS AND HAND MAIDENS.

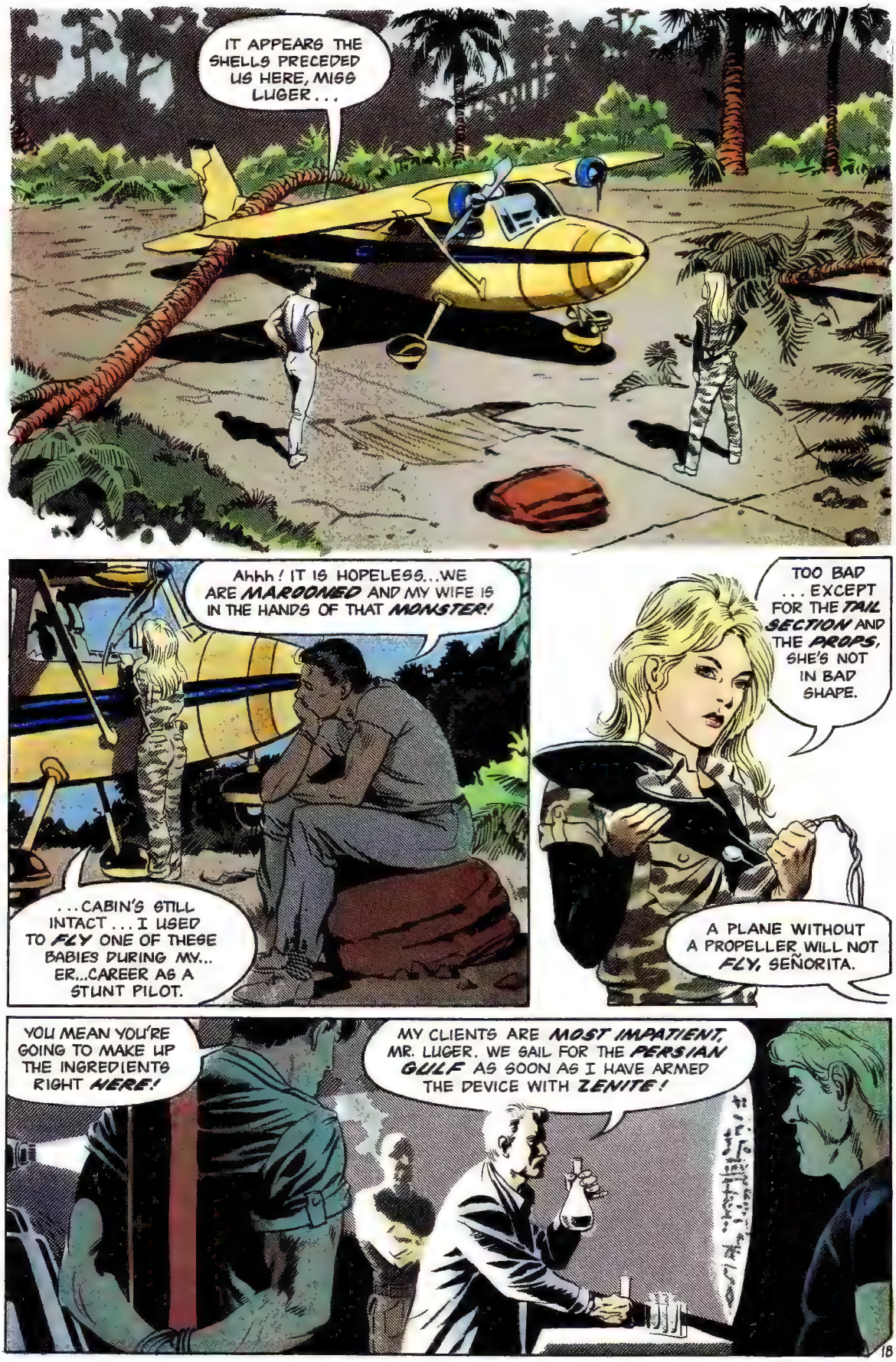

ENTER THE BENEVOLENT LORD KINGSLEY.
I WON'T BORE YOU WITH THE DETAILS OF MY CHANCE MEETING WITH DR. VELLUM--SUFFICE TO SAY HE REQUIRED URGENT SECLUSION AND I WAS AVAILABLE.
FOR A PRICE...


ALL THINGS UNDER HEAVEN HAVE THEIR PRICE, MR. LUGER, INCLUDING THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD. I ASSURE YOU... PARTICULARLY WHEN NEGOTIATING FOR THE HARMLESS-LOOKING CASE I JUST SHOWED YOU.
RREEEEEEEEEEEEEE

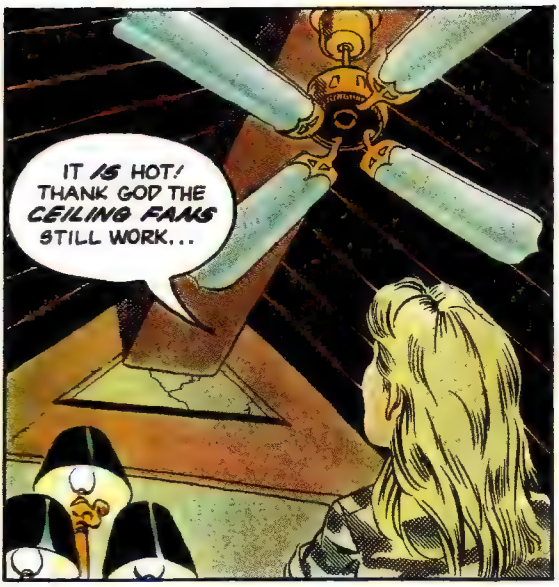
OH, DEAR... I SEEM TO HAVE NEGLECTED TO INCLUDE THE NOVACAINE WHEN PREPARING MY EQUIPMENT. I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A PAIN KILLER...
REEEEEE

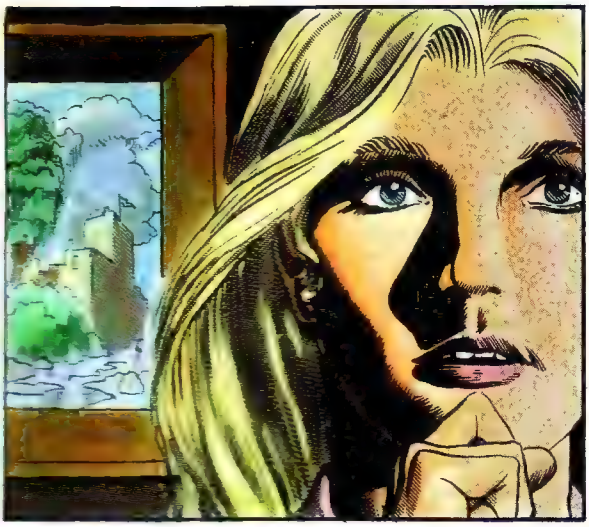

...YOU HAVE MY APOLOGIES IN ADVANCE, MY DEAR!
EEEEEEEEEE
AAGGHHH!

HE'S GOT YOUR BRIDE, ALL RIGHT... ANY IDEAS WHY HE'S EMPLOYING SUCH CREATIVE FORMS OF TORTURE?
NONE! WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW THIS MAN!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THEM SOMEHOW... KINGSLEY'S MEN SANK MY BOAT--HOW ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ANCHORED NEAR HERE WE COULD USE?
WE CAME BY PLANE.
BY PLANE!!
LEAD ME TO IT, BROTHER! WE'VE GOT US SOME FLYING TO DO!
AH, SUCCESS! DR. VELLUM, YOU ARE INDEED A GENIUS!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST AN EX-NAZI...
THE GOOD DOCTOR'S PARTICIPATION IN BOTH THE WAR AND THIS FORMULA WAS ACHIEVED UNDER CONSIDERABLE DURESS. EVEN NOW HE BELIEVES WE ARE OUT SEARCHING FOR MY LONG LOST DAUGHTER. LIKE YOU, DR. VELLUM IS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE!
AND THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN ... THE SUM TOTAL OF OUR MINGLED DESTINIES!
17


IT APPEARS THE SHELLS PRECEDED US HERE, MISS LUGER...
Ahhh! IT IS HOPELESS...WE ARE MAROONED AND MY WIFE IS IN THE HANDS OF THAT MONSTER!
...CABIN'S STILL INTACT... I USED TO FLY ONE OF THESE BABIES DURING MY... ER...CAREER AS A STUNT PILOT.
TOO BAD ... EXCEPT FOR THE TAIL SECTION AND THE PROPS, SHE'S NOT IN BAD SHAPE.
A PLANE WITHOUT A PROPELLER WILL NOT FLY, SEÑORITA.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE UP THE INGREDIENTS RIGHT HERE!
MY CLIENTS ARE MOST IMPATIENT, MR. LUGER. WE SAIL FOR THE PERSIAN GULF AS SOON AS I HAVE ARMED THE DEVICE WITH ZENITE!

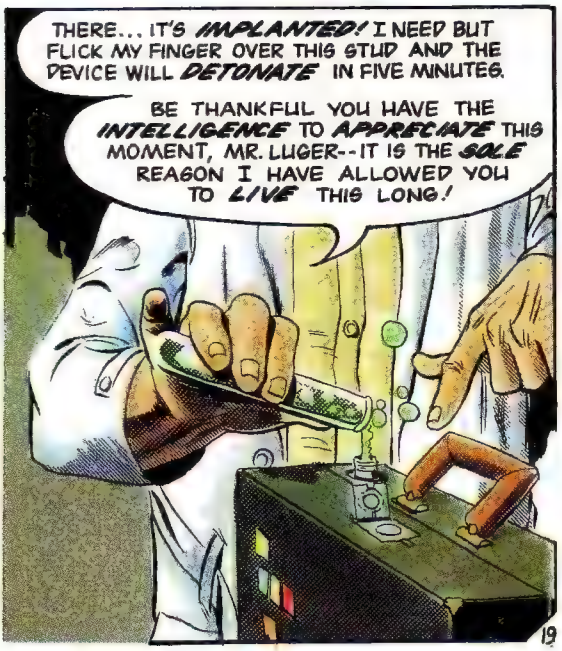
PLEASE, SEÑORITA, SIT DOWN! IT IS TOO HOT TO PACE!
IF ONLY THE PROPS HADN'T BEEN DAMAGED! I'M CERTAIN I COULD GET THE ENGINES STARTED...


IT IS HOT! THANK GOD THE CEILING FANS STILL WORK...



MIGUEL...HOW MANY OF THESE FANS ARE INSTALLED HERE AT THE CHATEAU?
HUH? FANS?

ZENITE! LOOK AT IT GENTLEMEN, LOOK AT ITS COLOR, ITS PURITY!
YOU ARE WITNESSING THE FINAL STEP IN THE ENDLESS QUEST FOR THE DOMINATION OF MAN OVER MAN!


THERE... IT'S IMPLANTED! I NEED BUT FLICK MY FINGER OVER THIS STUD AND THE DEVICE WILL DETONATE IN FIVE MINUTES.
BE THANKFUL YOU HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE TO APPRECIATE THIS MOMENT, MR. LUGER--IT IS THE SOLE REASON I HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO LIVE THIS LONG!

WHAT ABOUT THE TAIL SECTION?
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S GOING TO BE A WINDY FLIGHT!
WE'LL STILL NEED WEAPONS OF SOME KIND TO BACK UP THIS LITTLE RAID... HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING AT ALL BACK AT THE HOUSE?
HA-HA! SEÑORITA, HAVE I GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!
50 CAL.
HOLY JUMPIN'--
PAYDIRT!
PETERSON, SET A COURSE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST IF YOU PLEASE.
MR. LUGER, MISS DEJON... IF YOU'LL BE KIND ENOUGH TO MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE ON THE PLANK...
"WALKING THE PLANK"? ISN'T THAT A LITTLE HISTRIONIC, KINGSLEY?
PERHAPS, BUT SWIMMERS DIE EVERY YEAR FROM SHARK ATTACKS AND I'M A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN COVERING HIS TRACKS.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, THEN, MR. LUGER...
20

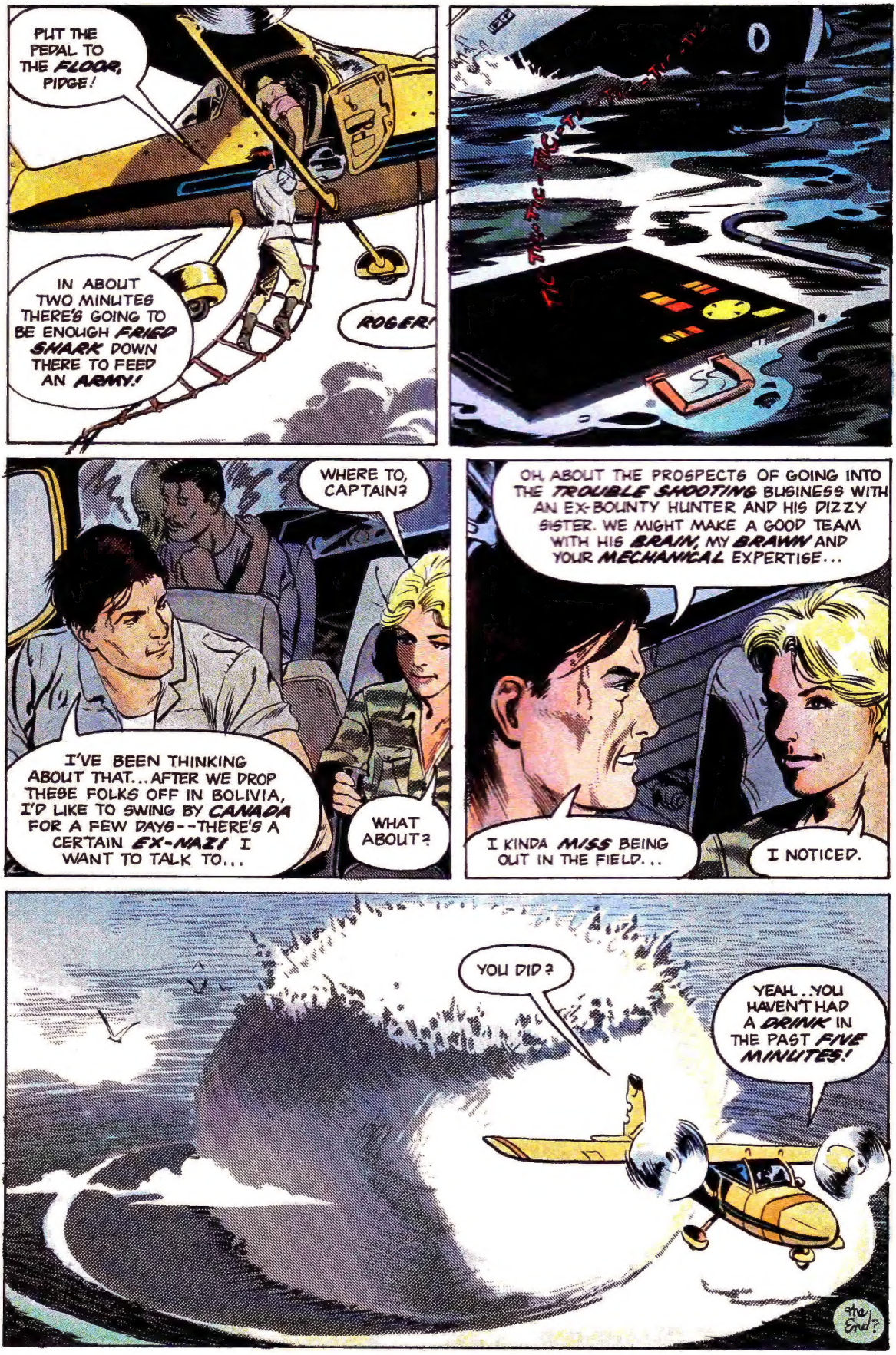
AGH!
BRAT-T-T-T
PETERSON!
YYAAGGHHH!
SHOOT THEM, YOU IDIOTS!
UHH!
YAGGH!
DIE, LUGER!
BRAAT T T T!
AIEEEE!
HEY, YOU'RE NOT BAD WITH THAT THING!
AND YOU, SEÑORITA PIGEON, FLY A MEAN CEILING FAN!

LUBER-- BEHIND YOU!!
SKA-AAAKK!
UFF!
KA-CHOWCHOWCHOW
KINGSLEY!
DROP IT, KINGSLEY! THE DREAM'S OVER!
22

KA CHOW! KA CHOW!
THEY'RE USING ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS FROM THAT OTHER SHIP!
GO IN LOW--THEN PULL UP FAST!
KA CHOW! KA CHOW!
KACHOW!
WHOOM!
SNIK!
AGGHH!
BRATTTTTT!!

CRRACK!
KRRASSH
SKRRACK!!
TH-THE BOMB... :(GASP!):
THE IMPACT STARTED IT! THERE'S NO WAY TO REVERSE THE COUNT DOWN!
TIC-TIC-TIC-TIC
LUGER! WE'RE SINKING!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT! GET TO THE RAIL!
JUST KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED THAT PIDGE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO BRING ALONG A ROPE OR A LADDER!

AH! THERE IT IS!
HOLD ON TIGHT, PRINCESS!
I'M AFRAID NOT, MR. LUGER!
YOU'VE DESTROYED A LIFETIME OF BRILLIANTLY ORCHESTRATED PLANNING ...I CAN BUT RETURN THE FAVOR...
GOODBYE, MR. LUGER...
YAAGGGHH!!!
HANG ON--IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
HORRIBLE! THEY'RE EATING HIM ALIVE!
I GUESS THEY FORGOT TO BRING THE NOVACAINE...


PUT THE PEDAL TO THE FLOOR, PIDGE!
IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES THERE'S GOING TO BE ENOUGH FRIED SHARK DOWN THERE TO FEED AN ARMY!
ROGER!
WHERE TO, CAPTAIN?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT... AFTER WE DROP THESE FOLKS OFF IN BOLIVIA, I'D LIKE TO SWING BY CANADA FOR A FEW DAYS--THERE'S A CERTAIN EX-NAZI I WANT TO TALK TO...
WHAT ABOUT?
OH, ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF GOING INTO THE TROUBLE SHOOTING BUSINESS WITH AN EX-BOUNTY HUNTER AND HIS DIZZY SISTER. WE MIGHT MAKE A GOOD TEAM WITH HIS BRAIN, MY BRAWN AND YOUR MECHANICAL EXPERTISE...
I KINDA MISS BEING OUT IN THE FIELD...
I NOTICED.
YOU DID?
YEAH..YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DRINK IN THE PAST FIVE MINUTES!
the End?